



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/651,209
Applicant : Mark A. MESSINA
Filed : August 29, 2003
TC/A.U. : 3677
Examiner : Robert John Sandy

Docket No. : 2566-122
Customer No. : 06449
Confirmation No. : 7634

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant submits herewith information that the Office may wish to consider in examination of the subject application.

Materials submitted for consideration are listed on the attached form PTO-1449.


The relevance of each foreign-language reference for which an English-language translation is not provided, is as follows:

CH 269 995 - The relevance of this reference can be appreciated from the Figures.

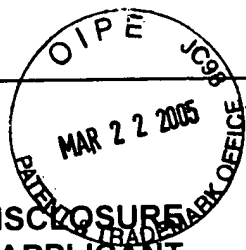
FR 2 278 006 - The relevance of this reference can be appreciated from the Figures.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97(c)(1) and (e)(2), no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned, no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

Respectfully submitted,

By  _____
Brian A. Tollefson
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 46,338
ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK, p.c.
Suite 800, 1425 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202)783-6040

Enclosure: Form 1449
Foreign References (3)



**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Complete if Known

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Application Number | 10/651,209 |
| Filing Date | August 29, 2003 |
| First Named Inventor | Mark A. Messina |
| Group Art Unit | 3677 |
| Examiner Name | Robert John Sandy |
| Confirmation No. | 7634 |

Sheet

1

of

2

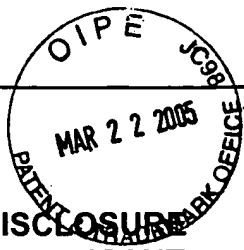
Attorney Docket Number 2599-122

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | U.S. Patent Document | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| | | Number | Kind Code ² (if known) | | |
| | | 5,881,438 | | CAPANNA, Micael | March 16, 1999 |
| | | 5,219,099 | | SPENCE, <i>et al.</i> | June 15, 1993 |
| | | 5,014,939 | | KRAUS, Willibald <i>et al.</i> | May 14, 1991 |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code. ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached. AB indicates that only an English language abstract is attached.



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Complete if Known

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Application Number | 10/651,209 |
| Filing Date | August 29, 2003 |
| First Named Inventor | Mark A. Messina |
| Group Art Unit | 3677 |
| Examiner Name | Robert John Sandy |
| Confirmation No. | 7634 |

Sheet

2

of

2

Attorney Docket Number

2599-122

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | T ⁶ |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|----------------|
| | | Office ³ Code | Number ⁴ | Kind ⁵ (if known) | | | |
| | | GB | 1297794 | | PALL CORPORATION | November 29, 1972 | |
| | | CH | 269995 | A | SIEGRIST, Walter | August 15, 1950 | |
| | | FR | 2278006 | A | BIOENGINEERING RESEARCH | February 6, 1976 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Examiner Signature | | | | | Date Considered | | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code. ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached. AB indicates that only an English language abstract is attached.